

REMARKS

Claims 11 and 19 have been amended so as to better define the invention and distinguish it from prior art. Claim 13 has been amended to change dependency from a now canceled claim. Claim 14 has been amended to include all of the limitations of the base claim and all intervening claims. Since the Office Action indicated that claims 14 and 15 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form, amended claim 14 and claim 15 (which depends from claim 14) are now believed to be allowable. New claims 22 and 23 have been added.

Claims 11 and 19 have been amended to describe the control device as being triggered by the deflection of at least one of the welding rollers. The Amendment is supported by the specification as filed, specifically page 4, lines 13-15; page 7, lines 15-18; page 8, line 14; page 9, line 3; and claims 3 and 12. This feature, using the deflection of the welding electrode rollers to switch the welding current to the welding electrode rollers, which is now recited in independent claims 11 and 19, is not taught by either the EP 0 273 984 A1 or Matteson (U.S. '862) references.

The EP reference appears to teach switching the welding current by detecting the edge of the article to be welded. See for example Fig. 2 in which feed arm 12 is moved by the tracking end 4b of the article, causing disc 13 to rotate. Sensor 14 detects slit 9 in disc 13 thereby triggering the welding current.

The Matteson reference, U.S. '862, appears to teach the use of a constant welding current and to change the power factor of the welding current based on the position of the article to be welded.

New claims 22 and 23 include the limitation that the control device switches the welding current only when the voltage/current is passing through zero. This limitation finds support in the application as filed; particularly page 6, lines 11-12; page 9, lines 5-6; and claim 4.

Favorable consideration of these amended claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants include herewith a check in the amount of \$750.00 to cover the cost of

filing this RCE. In the event additional fees or charges are due, please charge them to Deposit Account 13-0235.

Respectfully submitted,

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